

A2 7. (Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the predetermined value is less than about 2 seconds.

A3 18. (Amended) The computer system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined value is less than about 2 seconds.

A4 24. (Amended) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the interrupt comprises a system management interrupt (SMI), wherein the secure operating mode comprises system management mode (SMM).

A5 26. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein determining if the computer system is in a first operating mode includes determining if the computer system is in system management mode, and wherein asserting a control signal if the first timer has reached the predetermined value includes executing a return from SMM (RSM) instruction before an SMI handler exits the system management mode.